

Hard Rock Battery April Article

By Pfc. Michael Robinson
Training room/mail clerk

****Editor's note – Each month Headquarters and Headquarters Battery likes to spotlight a Soldier who deserves some recognition for all of his or her hard work. This month the recognized Soldier, Pfc. Michael Robinson, wrote the news update for the battery from his viewpoint. Robinson is a personnel specialist working in the HHB Training Room. He also performs additional duty as the battery mail room clerk. He is 18 and has been in the Army less than a year. He would like to tell his grandmother, "I love you and can't wait until I get home. Stay healthy; I am fine, stay strong."*

This month has definitely been our best here in the Hard Rock battery. We have really settled into a good battle rhythm.

We get up every morning and conduct our daily physical training and then put in a solid 8-12 hours of work.

The hard work by the officers, non-commissioned officers and Soldiers of this fine battery has paid off: we now get scheduled days off during the week. These days off are really essential. I personally need the time to take care of laundry, mail, and if I'm lucky, some video games.

The battery has conducted more than 50 successful convoys and the efforts by the leaders in the battery are evident. So far we have had no incidences. I won't attribute this to luck; I've seen the hard work that goes into the planning and execution of every convoy.

This month the Hard Rock Battery had the pleasure in promoting several outstanding Soldiers: Pvt2 Kristin Blair to private first class; Pfc. Jeffery Leger, Joseph Armijo and Joshua Overton to specialist; and Cpl. Sisily Eager to sergeant.

Staff Sgt. Lawanda Perry was promoted to sergeant first class with Staff Sgts. Michael Miles and Robert Martinez also selected by the Department of the Army for their E-7.

We also had the pleasure of promoting one of our officers which is rare because it takes so long for them to reach their next rank. Chief Warrant Officer 3 James Quick was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 4.

This month we also rewarded some Soldiers who showed their dedication and love for the army by demonstrating the Army Values. 1st Lt. Max Fuldauer, HHB executive officer, Cpl. David Hite, brigade command driver and Capt. Jerry Frimml, brigade logistics officer, received the Army Achievement Medal for the completion of the “Liger” bridge. The bridge enables Soldiers to walk to brigade headquarters from the living area much quicker.

Sgts. Barron Rhodes, data systems integrator, Fires Bde., and Tonja Hodges, operations NCO, 324th Network Support Company, were awarded the Army Commendation Medal for their valiant efforts assisting a fellow Soldier found unconscious by the side of the road. Had it not been for Rhodes and Hodges, the Soldier could have had an undesirable fate.

Sgt. Matthew Edmonds received an Army Achievement Medal for his outstanding performance in the Fires Brigade weapons competition. He scored the highest of all the NCOs who competed.

The Hard Rock battery is not just an all work battery; we know how to have fun. This month we have been really interactive with the soldiers by having a game night with two Xbox 360's, three Xbox's, four Ps2's, and about eight televisions, all thanks to Sgt

Fahad Jaha, Pfc. James Richardson, Armijo, Fuldauer, Hite and myself. We had a whole lot of food and drinks, which made it a lot better.

We also recently had a flag football tournament, but sad to say we had only four teams that actually played. They were HHB, 324th NSC, Battery A, 26th Field Artillery and the brigade personal security detachment.

It came down to HHB and the PSD in the championship. HHB took it to a level that the PSD never thought about and won 63 to 21.

The battery's average Army Physical Fitness Test score improved from the diagnostic average of 220 points to a record average of 250 points.

Now for the big news: HHB is going to be known as the "Strongest Battery in Baghdad" before we leave because our battery commander, Capt. Damon Wells, won the weight lifting contest for the heavyweight division by bench pressing 450 pounds and dead lifting 600 pounds.

Fuldauer won the dead lift competition for the light heavy weight division by dead lifting 430 pounds. He won due to beating 1st Sgt. Kenneth Carmickle in a "rep off" which is when they put 225lbs on the bar and see who can lift it the most times.

Fuldauer lifted it a mind blowing 33 times and Carmickle lifted it a whopping 30 times. We have had fun making physical training a priority, and it definitely shows!

We as a battery have progressed due to the dedication of every soldier from private to colonel. We thank all of you at home for your support because it's for you that we put it all on the line for. I am proud to be an American. Don't forget that we all love you and need your support to keep us going while where here.

If you have any questions please contact our Family Readiness Group Leader
Andrea Wells at andrea.j.wells@us.army.mil or the battery commander at
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Thank you again for your support. HARD ROCK!!!